

Journal of the Senate

ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF MISSOURI

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

FIRST DAY – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

Opening Address

Senator Caleb Rowden, President Pro Tem

Second Regular Session, 102nd General Assembly

January 3, 2024

To my esteemed colleagues, honored guests, and fellow Missourians –

I stand before you today with a profound sense of duty and responsibility as we convene for the 2024 legislative session. For about 1/3 of this chamber, me included, this is our last first day of session. The last chance for some of us to make a difference for our communities and our state via the mechanism of the Missouri Senate.

My question for us is simple—will we seize this moment?

Will we focus on principled progress or political pandemonium?

Will we care more about Missouri's future or our own political futures?

What I am about to say isn't breaking news—political experts and onlookers don't think this session is going to amount to much. I say let's prove them wrong.

Children stuck in failing schools and their parents need us to prove the experts wrong.

Those struggling to make ends meet because of rising inflation need us to prove the experts wrong.

Our constituents who sent us here to secure their liberties and economic opportunities need us to prove the experts wrong.

I have faith in each and every one of you to rise to this occasion, to put the needs of our constituents before our own ambitions, and to prove that we can indeed govern well. Together, let us write a chapter in the history of Missouri that we can all be proud of long after our time in this chamber is done.

Now let's get to work!